

Religion and Philosophy

Journal of a convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the states of New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and South-Carolina, held in Christ-Church, in the city of Philadelphia, 1789.





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Multiple Contributors, See Notes

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Religion and Philosophy

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OURNAL

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CONVENTION

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Protestant Episcopal Church

IN THE STATES OF

New-York,
New-Jersey,
Pennsylvania,
Delaware,

MARYLAND,
VIRGINIA,
AND
SOUTH-CAROLINA,

HELDIN

CHRIST-CHURCH,

IN THE

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA,

FROM

JULY 28th to AUGUST 8th, 1789.

PHILADELPHIA:

BX 5521

LIST of the Members of the Convention.

THE Right Reverend WILLIAM WHITE, D. D. Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Pennsylvania, and President of the Convention.

From the State of NEW-YORK.

The Rev. ABRAHAM BEACH, D. D. The Rev. BENJAMIN MOORE, D. D. Mr. Moses Rogers.

From the State of NEW-JERSEY.

The Rev. WILLIAM FRASER.
The Rev. UZAL OGDEN.
The Rev. HENRY WADDEL.
The Rev. GFORGE H. SPIEREN.
JOHN COX, Esquire.
ROBERT STRETTEL JONES, Esquire.
SAMUEL OGDEN, Esquire.

From the State of PENNSYLVANIA.

The Rev. Samuel Magaw, D. D.
The Rev. Robert Blackwell, D. D.
The Rev. Joseph Pilmore.
The Rev. Joseph G. J. Bend.
The Honorable Francis Hopkinson, Esquire.
Samuel Powel, Esquire.
Dr. Gerardus Clarkson.
Tench Coxe, Esquire.

From the State of DELAWARE.

The Rev. Joseph Couden.
The Rev. Stephen Sykes.
James Sykes, Esquire.
Thomas Duff, Esquire.
Mr. Philip Reading.

From

From the State of MARYLAND.

The Rev. WILLIAM SMITH, D. D.
The Rev. Thomas John Clasgett, D. D.
The Rev. Colin Ferguson, D. D.
The Rev. John Bisset.
Richard B. Carmichael, Equire.
Dr. William Frisby.

From the State of VIRGINIA, ROBERT ANDREWS, Esquire.

From the State of SOUTH-CAROLINA.
The Rev. Robert Smith.
WILLIAM WARD BURROWS, Esquire.
WILLIAM BRISBANE, Esquire.

JOURNAL, &c.

Tuesday, July 28th, 1789.

CLERICAL and Lay Deputies from several of the states assembled; and judging it proper to wait the arrival of the Deputies from the other states,

Adjourned to nine o'clock to-morrow morning.

WEDNESDAY, July 29th, 1789.

The Convention met.

The Right Rev. Dr. White, President, ex officio.

The Rev. Dr. Claggett read prayers.

The Right Rev. Dr. Provoost, who was to have preached on the opening of the Convention, being absent through indisposition, the Rev. Dr. Smith preached, agreeably to request made yesterday.

The Hon. Mr. Hopkinson was unanimously chosen Secretary; but being indisposed, Mr. Tench Coxe was requested to

officiate.

Ordered, That the members present produce the testimonials of their respective appointments, which, being produ-

ced, were read, and deemed fatisfactory.

Mr. Andrews, Lay Deputy from Virginia, informed the Convention, that the Rev. Dr. Griffith, the Clerical Delegate from the faid state, was in town, but detained by sickness from the Convention.

A certificate of the confecration of the Right Rev. William White, D. D. Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the state of Pennsylvania, and the Right Rev. Samuel Provoost, D. D. Bishop of said church in the state of New-York, signed by Robert Jenner, Notary-Public, and dated February 4, 1787, was produced and read; also a certificate of the confecration of the Right Rev. Dr. White, signed by his Grace, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and countersigned by his Grace, the Archbishop of York, and the Right Rev. the Bishops of Bath and Wells and of Peterborough.

Mr. Andrews communicated to the Convention the following extract from the minutes of the Convention of this church in the state of Virginia.

IN CONVENTION, May 8, 1789.

Resolved, That the Deputies appointed to attend the next General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church be desired to notify to the General Convention, that the Rev. Dr. Grissith, Bishop elect of the said church in this state, has relinquished the said appointment, and that no person has been elected in his room.

A copy from the Journal of the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Virginia, held from May 6 to May 9, 1789, inclusive.

ROBERT ANDREWS, Secretary of the Protestant Episcopal Convention in Virginia.

The Rev. Dr. Moore, Mr. Hopkinson, and Mr. Andrews,

were appointed a committee to prepare rules of order.

An invitation from the University of Pennsylvania to the Convention, to attend a Commencement, was presented by the Rev. Dr. Magaw, which was unanimously accepted, and the President was requested to signify the same in writing to the Trustees and Faculty.

Adjourned to five o'clock, P. M.

WEDNESDAY, July 29th, 1789. P. M.

The Convention met.

Mr. Hopkinson remaining indisposed, the Rev. Mr. Bend

was requested to officiate during his indisposition.

Ordered, That the Rev. Dr. Smith, the Rev. Dr. Moore and Mr. Ogden, be a committee, to piepare an address to the Prefident of the United States.

On motion, Ordered, That the letters of confecration of the Right Rev. Dr. White, and the Right Rev. Dr. Provooft, and the notarial certificate thereof, be recorded.*

Organied, That the Secretary procure a book for recording

the minutes and papers of the General Convention.

Ordered, That the Rev. Dr. Smith, the Rev. Dr. Beach and Mr. Andrews, be a committee, to prepare an address of thanks to the Most Reverend the Archbishops of Canterbury tion

and York, for their good offices in procuring the confecra-

tion of the American Bishops.

The Deputies from the several states, being called upon to declare their powers, relative to the object of the following resolution of the Protestant Episcopal Church, viz:—— "Resolved, That it be recommended to the Conventions of this Church, in the several states represented in this Convention, that they authorise and empower their Deputies to the next General Convention, after we shall have obtained a Bishop or Bishops in our church, to confirm and ratify a general constitution, respecting both the doctrine and discipline of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America,"—gave information, that they came fully authorised to ratify a Book of Common Prayer, &c. for the use of the church.

Ordered, That the Journal of the last General Convention be read, and that a copy of the Journals of the Convention

be procured for each member.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention be given to the Rev. Dr. Smith for his sermon, and that he be requested to publish the same.

Adjourned to nine o'clock to-morrow morning.

THURSDAY, July 30th, 1789.

The Convention met.

The Rev. Dr. Beach read prayers.

The Rev. Mr. Sykes, the Rev. Mr. Couden, James Sykes and Thomas Duff, Esquires, Deputies from Delaware, produced the credentials of their appointment, which being read and approved, they took their seats in the Convention.

The aforesaid Deputies were requested to state their powers relative to the ratification of a Book of Common Prayer, &c.

which were deemed fufficient.

The Hon. Mr. Hopkinson, a Deputy for Pennsylvania, took

his feat in Convention.

The committee appointed to prepare rules for the orderly conduct of the Convention reported the same, which were

adopted.

On motion, Ordered, That a committee, confishing of a Deputy from each state, be appointed, to take into consideration the proposed constitution of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and to recommend such alterations, additions and amendments, as they shall think necessary and proper.

The

The Rev. Dr. Moore, Mr. Jones, the Rev. Dr. Blackwell, Mr. Sykes, the Rev. Dr. Smith, Mr. Andrews, and the Rev.

Mr. Smith, were appointed accordingly.

An act of the Clergy of Massachusetts and New-Hampshire, recommending the Rev. Edward Bass for consecration, was laid before the Convention by the Right Rev. Dr. White, and is as follows:

HE good Providence of Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness, having lately blessed the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, by supplying it with a complete and entire ministry, and affording to many of her communion the benefit of the labours, advice and government of the successors of the Apostles,

We, Presbyters of said church in the states of Massachusetts and New-Hampshire, deeply impressed with the most lively gratitude to the Supreme Governor of the Universe, for his goodness in this respect, and with the most ardent love to his church, and concern for the interest of her fons, that they may enjoy all the means that Christ, the great shepherd and bishops of souls, has instituted for leading his followers into the ways of truth and holiness, and preserving his church in the unity of the spirit and the bond of peace; to the end that the people committed to our respective charges may enjoy the benefit and advantage of those offices, the administration of which belongs to the highest order of the ministry, and to encourage and promote, as far as in us lies, a union of the whole Episcopal Church in these states, and to perfect and compact this mystical body of Christ, do hereby nominate, elect and appoint the Reverend Edward Bass, a Presbyter of faid church, and Rector of St. Paul's, in Newbury-Port, to be our Bishop; and we do promise and engage to receive him as fuch, when canonically confecrated, and invested with the apostolic office and powers, by the Right Reverend the Bishops hereafter named, and to render him all that canonical obedience and submission, which, by the laws of Christ and the constitution of our church, is due to so important an office.

And we now address the Right Reverend the Bishops in the states of Connecticut, New-York and Pennsylvania, praying their united assistance in consecrating our said brother, and canonically investing him with the apostolic office and powers. This request we are induced to make, from a long acquaint-

ance with him, and from a perfect knowledge of his being possessed of that love to God and benevolence to men, that piety, learning and good morals, that prudence and discretion, requisite to so exalted a station, as well as that personal respect and attachment of the communion at large in these states, which will make him a valuable acquisition to the order, and, we trust, a rich blessing to the church.

DONE at a meeting of the Presbyters, whose names are underwritten, held at Salem, in the county of Essex, and commonwealth of Massachusetts, the fourth day of June, Anno Salutis, 1789.

SAMUEL PARKER, Rector of Trinity Church, Boston.

T. FITCH OLIVER, Rector of St. Michael's Church, Marblehead.

John Cousens Ogden, Rector of Queens Chapel, Portsmouth, New-Hampshire.

WILLIAM MONTAGUE, Minister of Christ's Church, Boston.

TILLOTSON BRUNSON, Assistant Minister of Christ's Church, Boston.

A true copy.
(Attest) Samuel Parker.

At the meeting aforesaid,

Voted, That the Rev. Samuel Parker be authorized and empowered to transmit copies of the foregoing act, to be by him attested, to the Right Reverend the Bishops in Connecticut, New-York and Pennsylvania; and that he be appointed our agent, to appear at any Convocation to be holden at Pennsylvania or New-York, and to treat upon any measures that may tend to promote an union of the Episcopal Church throughout the United States of America, or that may prove advantageous to the interest of said church.

EDWARD BASS, Chairman.

A true copy.
(Attest) Samuel Parker.

A letter was also read from the Right Rev. Dr. Seabury, Bifhop of the church in Connecticut, to the Right Rev. Dr. White, and one from the same gentleman to the Rev. Dr. Smith. B Upon reading the faid letters, it appearing that Bishop Seabury lay under some misapprehensions concerning an entry in the minutes of a former Convention, as intending some doubt of the validity of his consecration,

Refolved, unanimously, That it is the opinion of this Convention, that the consecration of the Right Rev. Dr. Seabury

to the Episcopal Office is valid.

Mr. Burrows obtained leave of absence for Thuisday. Adjourned to eight o'clock to-morrow morning.

FRIDAY, July 31st, 1789.

The Convention met.

The Rev. Mr Smith read prayers.

Dr. William Frisby produced his credentials, as a Lay-Deputy from the state of Maryland, which being approved, he took his seat.

The Rev. Dr. Ferguson, a Deputy from Maryland, and Mr. Philip Reading, a Deputy from Delaware, took their seats.

The Convention then went in procession to the German Reformed Church, in consequence of the invitation received from the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania, to attend the commencement.

FRIDAY, balf past one, P. M.

The Convention having returned, they proceeded to business.

On motion, Refolwed, That a committee, confishing of one Deputy from each state, be appointed, to prepare a body of canons for the government of this church; and

The Rev. Dr. Beach, the Rev. Mr. Ogden, the Rev. Mr. Pilmore, the Rev. Mr. Couden, the Rev. Dr. Claggett, Mr. Andrews and Mr. Brisbane, were appointed accordingly.

Refolved, That on Monday next this Convention will refolve themselves into a committee of the whole, for the purpose of taking into consideration the proposed Book of Common Prayer and Administration of the Sacraments.

Mr. Duff had leave of absence given him.

Refolved, That the application of the Clergy of Massachufetts and New-Hampshire to the Right Rev. Doctors Seabury, Provoost Provoost and White, be considered to-morrow in a committee of the whole.

Mr. J. Cox and Mr. Ogden obtained leave of absence from Saturday evening till Monday.

Adjourned to nine o'clock to-morrow.

SATURDAY, August 1st, 1789.

The Convention met.

The Rev. Mr. Ogden read Prayers.

The Rev Dr. Smith, from the committee appointed to take into confideration the proposed constitution of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and to recommend such alterations, additions or amendments, as they shall think necessary and proper, reported a constitution for the same.

Ordered, That the faid constitution be read. Ordered, That it be read a second time.

Samuel Powel, Esquire, a deputy from Pennsylvania, took his feat in the Convention.

The constitution was then debated by paragraphs.

Refolved, That the 1st, 2d, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th articles be adopted, and stand in this order, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7;—that they be a rule of conduct for this Convention; and that the remaining articles be postponed for the future confideration of this Convention.

The order for the day being called, the Convention resolved itself into a committee of the whole, on the application of the Clergy of Massachusetts and New-Hampshire to the Bishops in the states of Connecticut, New-York and Penn-fylvania.

The Rev. Mr. Smith was called to the chair.

The committee, having made some progress in their business, rose, and reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again.

Adjourned to Monday morning, nine o'clock.

Monday, August 3d, 1789.

The Convention met.

The Rev. Mr. Waddel read prayers.

The President having informed the Convention, by message, that the melancholy event of the death of the Rev. Dr. Grissith, which happened at his house this morning, necessa-B z rily detained him at home, the Rev. Dr. Smith was chosen

President pro tempore.

Ordered, That the Rev. Dr. Moore, the Rev. Mr. Smith, Mr. Andrews and Mr. Tench Coxe be a committee, for settling the manner in which the Convention shall attend the funeral of the Rev. Dr. Griffith.

The committee, after an adjournment of a few minutes,

made the following report:

Refolwed, That the Senior Clergyman of the deputation of each state, except Virginia, attend the suneral of the Rev. Dr. Griffith as a pall-bearer, and that the other members of this Convention attend as mourners, and that a sermon be preached on the occasion.

Resolved, That the Clergy of all denominations within

this city be invited to attend the funeral.

This report was agreed to, and the Rev. Dr. Smith was

appointed to preach the funeral fermon.

Resolved, That the Right Rev. Dr. White, and Mr. Andrews, Lay-deputy from Virginia, be requested to walk as chief mourners, and direct all other matters relative to this melancholy event.

Adjourned to Tuesday, nine o'clock, A. M.

Tuesday, August 4th, 1789.

The Convention met, and adjourned to the house of their President, to attend the suneral of the Rev. Dr. Grissith.

After the funeral, the Convention assembled, and adjourned to four o'clock, P. M.

TUESDAY, August 4th, P. M.

The Convention met.

On motion, Refolved, unanimously, That the thanks of this Convention be given to the Rev. Dr. Smith, for his sermon preached at the funeral of the Rev. Dr. Griffith, and that he be requested to surnish the Convention with a copy for publication.

The Convention resolved itself into a committee of the whole, on the application of the Clergy of Massachusetts and

New-Hampshire.

The committee, having spent some time on the business, rose, and reported progress, and asked leave to sit again.

Dr.

Dr. Claggett having been necessarily obliged to leave the Convention, the Rev. Mr. Bisset was appointed, in his stead, a member of the committee for preparing a set of canons.

The order for Monday being called up, it was, on motion,

made the order of the day for Wednesday.

Adjourned to nine o'clock to-morrow morning.

WEDNESDAY, August 5th, 1789.

The Convention met.

The Rev. Mr. Spieren read prayers.

The order of the day being called up, it was postponed. The Convention then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, on the application from the Clergy of Massachusetts and New-Hampshire.

The Rev. Dr. Smith, in order to bring the business before them to a conclusion, offered the following resolves; viz.

"The committee of the whole, having had under their deliberate confideration the application of the Clergy of Massachusetts and New-Hampshire, for the consecration of the Rev. Edward Bass, as their Bishop, do offer to the Conven-

tion the following resolves:

as well under the English as the Scots line of Episcopacy, doth now subsist within the United States of America, in the persons of the Right Rev. William White, D. D. Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the state of Pennsylvania, the Right Rev. Samuel Provoost, D. D. Bishop of the said Church in the state of New-York, and the Right Rev. Samuel Seabury, D. D. Bishop of the said Church in the state of Connecticut.

2d. Refolved, That the faid three Bishops are fully competent to every proper act and duty of the episcopal office and character in these United States, as well in respect to the Confecration of other Bishops, and the Ordering of Priests and Deacons, as for the government of the Church, according to such rules, canons and institutions, as now are, or hereafter may be duly made and ordained by the Church in that case.

3d. Resolved, That in christian charity, as well as of duty, necessity and expediency, the churches represented in this Convention ought to contribute, in every manner in their power, towards supplying the wants, and granting every just

and reasonable request of their sister churches in these states;

and, therefore,

4th. Refolved, That the Right Rev. Dr. White and the Right Rev. Dr. Provoost be, and they hereby are, requested to join with the Right Rev. Dr. Seabury, in complying with the prayer of the Clergy of the states of Massachusetts and New-Hampshire, for the consecration of the Rev. Edward Bass, Bishop elect of the churches in the said states; but that, before the said Bishops comply with the request aforesaid, it be proposed to the churches in the New England states to meet the churches of these states, with the said three Bishops, in an adjourned Convention, to settle certain articles of union and discipline among all the churches, previous to such consecration.

5th. Refolved, That if any difficulty or delicacy, in refpect to the Archbishops and Bishops of England, shall remain with the Right Rev. Doctors White and Provoost, or either of them, concerning their compliance with the above request, this Convention will address the Archbishops and Bishops, and hope thereby to remove the difficulty."

These resolves were unanimously agreed to, as the report

of the committee.

The committee, having finished the business committed to them, rose, and reported to the Convention the above resolves.

On motion of the Rev. Dr. Smith, seconded by Mr. An-

drews, this report was unanimously agreed to.

Ordered, That the different committees appointed by this Convention, which have not yet reported, be called upon to

report.

The committee for preparing an address to the Most Reverend the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, informed the Convention that they were not yet ready to make a final report.

The committee for preparing an address to the President of the United States reported, that they had not yet finished the

business committed to their care.

Ordered, That M1. T. Coxe be added to the above committee.

The committee on the canons reported certain canons, which were ordered to be read.

On motion, the Convention resolved themselves into a committee of the whole on the said canons; the Rev. Mr. Smith in the chair.

The committee, having made fome progress in the business committed to them, rose, and reported, and asked leave to sit again to-morrow

Adjourned to nine o'clock to-morrow morning.

THURSDAY, August 6th, 1789.

The Convention met.

The Rev. Mr. Couden read prayers.

On motion, Refolved, That the Rev. Dr. Magaw, Mr. Tench Coxe and Mr Jones be a committee, to assist the Secretary in revising and publishing the minutes of the Convention.

The committee for preparing an address to the President of the United States presented a draught, which was read, and ordered to lie on the table.

The Convention then refolved themselves into a committee of the whole, on the canons.

The committee having spent some time on the business, rose, and reported.

On motion, Refolved, That the report of the committee lie on the table.

The address to the President of the United States was then read a second time.

It was afterwards read by paragraphs, and ordered to be engroffed, for figning.

Adjourned to nine o'clock to-morrow morning.

FRIDAY, August 7th, 1789.

The Convention met.

'The Rev. Mr. Frazei read prayers.

The Rev. Dr. Smith laid before the Convention, "Propofals for printing, by subscription, a body of sermons upon the most important branches of practical christianity, together with an address upon the same subject," which here follow.

Philadelphia, August 5, 1789.

To the Right Reverend and Reverend the Clergy, and the worthy and honorable Lay Members of the Protestant Episcopal Church, in the states of New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware,

ware, Maryland, Virginia and South-Carolina, now affenibled in General Convention.

My worthy Friends and Brethren,

HE Sermons and Discourses, whereof the Texts and Titles follow, are the result of the Author's labours, as a Preacher of the blessed Gospel, for near forty years past. Sundry of them, which were composed and delivered on special public occasions, have been already printed, and have passed through several editions, in Europe as well as America; but the main body of them were composed and delivered in the character of a Parish-Minister, viz. in the years 1764 and 1765, at Christ-Church and St. Peter's in the city of Philadelphia; from thence forward to the year 1780, in the churches of the Oxford mission, in the county of Philadelphia; and from the latter part of the year 1780, to July 1st, 1789, in

Chester parish, Kent county, Maryland.

During the foregoing long period of ministerial service, the Author hath frequently been solicited to print or to give manuscript copies of many of the Sermons; and hath, as his leifure would allow, so often indulged some of his too partial friends and hearers in the latter way, that copies of sundry Sermons have been multiplied in manuscript, and circulated in a condition not only very incorrect, but wholly without those last improvements and touches, which the best of them stand much in need of, and which the Author had always designed to bestow on some of them, and bequeath them as a legacy to his surviving friends and hearers, if health and opportunity should permit; and if that should not be the case, he had directed those sew, together with the whole remainder in the following list, to be suppressed from public view, as hasty and unfinished compositions.

But the late change in the Author's fituation, the refignation of his parochial as well as collegiate charge in the state of Maryland, and his return to his former station in the College of Philadelphia (added to the consideration of his advanced age) rendering it probable that he can never again engage in any stated parochial duty; the applications of some of his former friends and hearers have been renewed for the publication of sundry of those Sermons, which had long since been delivered before them, and of which some of them had

been supplied with manuscript copies.

In some late conversations with judicious and worthy perfons, both of the Clergy and Laity, respecting the present state of our churches and people in America, it hath been further fuggested, that the cause of religion and truth might be much promoted by the publication of a sufficient number of Sermons, or Discourses, digested, as nearly as possible, into a fystem or body of divinity; comprehending the most useful and important articles of the christian doctrine; treated of in a scriptural and evangelical way; in an easy, affectionate and correct style; suited to the minds and apprehensions of the young and those of inferior capacity, as well as edifying to those of riper years and more improved understanding; not running out into learned niceties or debates, to distarb common readers or hearers, but avoiding all speculative and controversial subjects, or touching upon them only to improve them, as far as possible, towards the purposes of practical godliness and vital christianity.

Although the Author hath not the vanity to imagine that the following Sermons are wholly sufficient to this good design, yet they may lay the foundation of a more perfect work, and he sinds, upon an arrangement of them under proper heads, that, in order to form a tolerably compleat system, only a few Sermons would be wanting, and those chiefly upon such speculative and controversial points, as the Author hath ever avoided, in the pulpit; but which (if thought necessary in a work of this kind) might be selected from some of the ablest

and most orthodox Divines of our church.

Indeed, it may be faid that a compleat body of Sermons and Divinity might be felected or compiled in this way; and attempts of that kind have been made with good effect. But, as every age and country is best pleased with its own forms, compositions and phrases of speech, the Author slatters himself, that is it should please GOD to enable him to sinish those Sermons in the way he proposes, they will be at least acceptable to those who have desired the publication of any of them. He further trusts, that is his design should meet with that approbation and countenance which he affectionately solicits from the members of the Convention, they will be of use to all well disposed christians, and especially to those of the following descriptions, viz.

1. To heads of families, who may think it their duty to devote the evenings of the Lord's Day to the instruction of

their own housholds.

2. To

2. To pious and well disposed persons (remote from places of public worship, or unprovided with ministers or pastors) who may wish to collect their neighbours and friends to spend some parts of a Sunday in public worship, and in reading ser-

mons and books of devotion.

3 To young Clergymen and Preachers, who, being ill-supplied with books, or a variety of Sermons on proper subjects, may be assisted in their earlier compositions by the present work; which it is proposed to comprise in about four octavo volumes, in the same sized paper and letter as this address; two volumes to be published yearly, at the rate of One Dollar per volume, on the delivery of the same to the subscribers.

WILLIAM SMITH.

On motion of Mr. J. Cox,

Refolved, unanimously, That the members of this Convention, being fully perfuaded that the interests of religion and practical godliness may be greatly promoted by the publication of a body of sermons, upon the plan proposed above, and being well satisfied of the author's soundness in the faith, and eminent abilities for such a work, do testify their approbation of the same, and their desire to encourage it, by annexing their names thereto as subscribers. [Here the names are subscribed.]

The Convention then took up the report of the committee of the whole upon the canons, which were read, and en-

grossed.

The faid canons were then adopted, and ordered to be figned by the Prefident and Secretary. They are as follow:

CANONS for the Government of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, agreed on and ratified in the General Convention of Said church, held in the city of Philadelphia, from the 28th day of July to the 8th day of August, 1789, inclusive.

CANON I. I N this church there shall always be three orders in the ministry, viz. Bishops, Priests and Deacons.

Canon 2. Every Bishop elect, before his consecration, shall produce to the Bishops, to whom he is presented for that holy

holy office, from the Convention, by whom he is elected a Bishop, and from the General Convention, or a committee of that body, to be appointed to act in their recess, certificates respectively, in the following words, viz.

Testimony from the Members of the Convention in the State, from whence the Person is recommended for Consecration.

W E, whose Names are underwritten, fully sensible how important it is, that the facred Office of a Bishop should not be unworthily conferred, and firmly persuaded that it is our Duty to bear testimony on this solemn Occasion without partiality or affection, do, in the presence of Almighty God, testify, that A. B. is not, so far as we are informed, justly liable to Evil Report either for Error in Religion, or for Viciousness of Life; and that we do not know or believe there is any Impediment or notable Crime for which he ought not to be consecrated to that holy Office. We do moreover jointly and severally declare, that, having personally known him for three years last past, we do in our Consciences believe him to be of such sufficiency in good Learning, such soundness in the Faith, and of such virtuous and pure Manners and Godly Conversation, that he is apt and meet to exercise the Office of a Bishop, to the honor of God and the edifying of his Church, and to be an wholesome Example to the Flock of Christ.

Testimony from the General Convention.

W E, whose Names are underwritten, fully sensible how important it is, that the facred office of a Bishop should not be unworthily conferred, and firmly persuaded that it is our Duty to bear our Testimony on this solemn Occasion without partiality or affection, do, in the presence of Almighty God, testify, that A. B. is not, so far as we are informed, justly liable to Evil Report, either for Error in Religion or for Viciousness of Life, and that we do not know or believe there is any Impediment or notable Crime, on account of which he ought not to be consecrated to that holy Office, but that he hath, as we believe, led his life, for three years last past, picously, soberly and honestly.

Canon 3. Every Bishop in this church shall, as often as may be convenient, visit the churches within his diocese or district, for the purposes of examining the state of his church, inspect-

inspecting the behaviour of the clergy, and administering the apostolic rate of confirmation.

CANON 4. Deacon's orders shall not be conferred on any person until he shall be twenty-one years old, nor Priest's orders on any one until he shall be twenty four years old; and, except on urgent occasion, unless he hath been a Deacon one year.—No man shall be consecrated a bishop of this church until he shall be thirty years old.

Canon 5. No person shall be ordained either Deacon or Priest, unless he shall produce a satisfactory certificate from some church, parish or congregation, that he is engaged with them, and that they will receive him as their Minister and allow him a reasonable support; or unless he be engaged as a Professor, Tutor or Instructor of youth, in some college, academy or general seminary of learning, duly incorporated; or unless the standing committee of the church in the state, for which he is to be ordained, shall certify to the Bishop their sull belief and expectation that he will be received and settled as a Pastor by some one of the vacant churches in that state.

CANON 6. Every candidate for holy orders shall be recommended to the Bishop by a standing committee of the Convention of the state wherein he resides, which recommendation shall be signed by the names of a majority of the committee, and shall be in the following words:

A. B. for the space of three years last past, hath lived piously, soberly and honestly: Nor hath he at any time, as far as we know or believe, written, taught or held, any thing contrary to the Doctrine or Discipline of the Protestant Episcopal Church And moreover we think him a Person worthy to be admitted to the sacred Order of Priest. In Witness whereof we have hereunto set our Hands. Dated the Day of _____ in the year of our Lord ____.

But before a standing committee of any state shall proceed to recommend any candidate, as aforesaid, to the Bishop, such candidate shall produce testimonials of his good morals and orderly conduct for three years last past, from the minister and vestry of the parish where he has resided, or from the vestry alone, if the parish be vacant; a publication of his intention to apply for holy orders having been previously made by such minister or vestry.

Canon 7. In every state, in which there is no standing committee, such committee shall be appointed at its next ensuing Convention; and in the mean time, every candidate for holy orders shall be recommended according to the regulations or usage of the church in each state, and the requisitions of the Bishop, to whom he applies.

Canon 8. No person shall be ordained in this church until he shall have fatisfied the Bishop and the two presbyters, by whom he shall be examined, that he is sufficiently acquainted with the New Testament in the original Greek, and can give an account of his faith in the Latin tongue, either in writing or otherwise, as may be required.

CANON 9. Agreeably to the practice of the primitive church, the stated times of ordination shall be on the Sundays following the Ember weeks; viz. the second Sunday in Lent, the Feast of Trinity, and the Sundays after the Wednesdays following the sourceenth day of September, and the thirteenth of December.

Canon 10. No person, not a member of this church, who shall profess to be episcopally ordained, shall be permitted to officiate therein, until he shall have exhibited to the Vestry of the church, in which he shall offer to officiate, a certificate signed by the Bishop of the diocese or district, or, where there is no Bishop, by three Clergymen of the standing committee of the Convention of that state, that his letters of orders are authentic, and given by some Bishop whose authority is acknowledged by this church, and also satisfactory evidence of his moral character.

Signed, by Order of the Convention,

WILLIAM WHITE, Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and President of the Convention. Mr. Andrews moved the following refolve:

Whereas it appears that fundry other canons are necessary

for the good government of the church,

Refolved, That the Right Rev. Dr. White, the Rev. Dr. Smith, Rev. Dr. Magaw, Rev. Mr. Smith, Mr. Hopkinson, Dr. Clarkson and Mr. T. Coxe, be a committee, to prepare, and report to the next meeting of this Convention, such additional canons, as to them shall seem necessary.

Which was agreed to.

The Convention took into confideration the two articles of the conflitution which had been postponed, and which they amended and agreed to.

Ordered, That the constitution be engrossed, for figning.
The engrossed address to the President of the United States

was read, and figned by the Convention.

Ordered, That the Right Reverend Dr. Provooft, the Rev. Mr. Smith, Mr. Andrews, Mr. John Cox, Mr. Brisbane, the Rev. Dr. Beach, the Rev. Dr. Moore, Mr. Rogers, the Rev. Mr. Ogden, Rev. Mr. Spieren, the Rev. Mr. Waddel, and Hon. Mr. Duane, with such other gentlemen as have been deputed to this Convention, who may be in New-York, be requested to present the same to the President of the United States.

Refolved, That the faid address, with the answer that may be received thereto, be printed in the journals of the adjourned meeting of this Convention.

Adjourned to nine o'clock to-morrow morning.

SATURDAY, August 8th, 1789.

The Convention met.

The Rev. Mr. Bisset read prayers.

The engrossed constitution of the Protestant Episcopal church was then read, and signed by the Convention, and 15 as follows:

A GENERAL CONSTITUTION of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America.

ART. 1. THERE shall be a General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America on the first Tuesday of August, in the year

of our Lord 1792, and on the first Tuesday of August in every third year afterwards, in such place as shall be determined by the Convention; and special meetings may be called at other times, in the manner hereafter to be provided for; and this Church, in a majority of the states which shall have adopted this constitution, shall be represented, before they shall proceed to business, except that the representation from two states shall be sufficient to adjourn; and in all business of the Convention, freedom of debate shall be allowed.

ART. 2. The Church in each flate shall be entitled to a representation of both the Clergy and the Laity, which representation shall consist of one or more deputies, not exceeding four of each order, chosen by the Convention of the state; and in all questions, when required by the clerical or lay representation from any state, each order shall have one vote; and the majority of suffrages by states shall be conclusive in each order, provided such majority comprehend a majority of the states represented in that order: The concurrence of both orders shall be necessary to constitute a vote of the Convention. If the Convention of any state should neglect or decline to appoint clerical deputies, or if they should neglect or decline to appoint lay deputies, or if any of those of either order appointed should neglect to attend, or be prevented by fickness or any other accident, such state shall nevertheless be confidered as duly represented by such deputy or deputies as may attend, whether lay or clerical. And if, through the negle& of the Convention of any of the churches which shall have adopted, or may hereafter adopt this conflitution, no deputies, either lay or clerical, should attend at any general convention, the church in such state shall nevertheless be bound by the acts of such convention.

ART. 3. The Bishops of this church, when there shall be three or more, shall, whenever general conventions are held, form a house of revision, and when any proposed ast shall have passed in the general convention, the same shall be transmitted to the house of revision, for their concurrence. And if the same shall be sent back to the Convention, with the negative or non-concurrence of the house of revision, it shall be again considered in the General Convention, and if the Convention shall adhere to the said act, by a majority of three sistes of their body, it shall become a law to all intents

and purposes, notwithstanding the non-concurrence of the house of revision; and all acts of the Convention shall be authenticated by both houses. And in all cases, the house of Bishops shall signify to the Convention their approbation or disapprobation, the latter with their reasons in writing, within two days after the proposed act shall have been reported to them for concurrence, and in failure thereof it shall have the operation of a law. But until there shall be three or more Bishops, as aforesaid, any Bishop attending a General Convention shall be a member ex officio, and shall vote with the Clerical Deputies of the state to which he belongs. And a Bishop shall then preside.

ART. 4. The Bishop or Bishops in every state shall be chofen agreeably to such rules, as shall be fixed by the Convention of that state: And every Bishop of this Church shall confine the exercise of his Episcopal office to his proper diocese or district, unless requested to ordain, or consirm, or perform any other act of the Episcopal office, by any Church destitute of a Bishop.

ART. 5. A Protestant Ep scopal Church in any of the United States, not now represented, may, at any time hereafter, be admitted, on acceding to this constitution.

ART. 6. In every state, the mode of trying Clergymen shall be instituted by the Convention of the church therein. At every trial of a Bishop, there shall be one or more of the Episcopal order present; and none but a Bishop shall pronounce sentence of deposition or degradation from the ministry on any Clergyman, whether Bishop, or Piesbyter, or Deacon.

ART. 7. No person shall be admitted to holy orders, until he shall have been examined by the Bishop, and by two Piesbyters, and shall have exhibited such testimonials and other requisites, as the canons, in that case provided, may direct. Nor shall any person be ordained, until he shall have subscribed the following declaration: "I do believe the holy scrip-" tures of the Old and New Testament to be the word of God, and to contain all things necessary to salvation. And I do solemnly engage to conform to the doctrines and worship of the Protestant Episcopal Church in these United States."

No person ordained by a foreign Bishop shall be permitted to officiate as a minister of this church, until he shall have complied with the canon or canons in that case provided, and have also subscribed the aforesaid declaration.

ART. 8. A book of common prayer, administration of the facraments, and other rites and ceremonies of the church, articles of religion, and a form and manner of making, ordaining and confecrating Bishops, Priests and Deacons, when established by this or a future general convention, shall be used in the Protestant Episcopal church in these states, which shall have adopted this constitution.

ART. 9. This conftitution shall be unalterable, unless in General Convention, by the church in a majority of the states, which may have adopted the same, and all alterations shall be first proposed in one General Convention, and made known to the several State Conventions, before they shall be finally agreed to or ratisfied in the ensuing General Convention.

In General Convention, in Christ-Church, Philadelphia, August the eighth, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine.

WILLIAM WHITE, D. D. Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal church in the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and President of the Convention.

NEW-YORK.

ABRAHAM BEACH, D. D. Affistant Minister of Trinity Church, in the city of New-York. Benjamin Moore, D. D. Assistant Minister of Trinity Church, in the city of New-York. Moses Rogers.

N E W - J E R S E Y.

WILLIAM FRAZER, Rector of St. Michael's Church
in Trenton, and St. Andrew's Church, in Amwell.

UZAL OGDEN, Rector of Trinity Church, Newark.

HENRY WADDELL, Rector of Shrewsbury and Middletown, New-Jersey.

GEORGE H. SPIEREN, Rector of St. Peter's, Amboy.

JOHN COX.

SAMUEL OGDEN.

SAMUEL OGDEN.
R. STRETTELL JONES.

PENNSYLVANIA.

SAMUBL MAGAW, D. D. Rector of St. Paul's, Philadelphia.

ROBERT BLACKWELL, D. D. Senior Affistant Minister of Christ-Church and St. Peter's, Philadelphia.

JOSEPH PII MORE, Rector of the United Churches of Trinity, St. Thomas, and All Saints.

Joseph G. J. Bend, Assistant Minister of Christ Church and St. Peter's, Philadelphia.

Francis Hopkinson.
GERARDUS CLARKSON.
TENCH COXE.
SAMUEL POWEL, Esquire.

D E L A W A R E.

JOSEPH COUDEN, A. M. Rector of St. Anne's.

STEPHEN SYKES, A. M. Rector of St. Peter's and

St Mathew's, in Suffex county.

JAMES SYKES.

MARYLAND.

WILLIAM SMITH, D. D. a Clerical Delegate for Maryland, appointed in Convention, as Rector of Chester parish, Kent county.

Colin Ferguson, D. D. Rector of St. Paul's, Kent county.

JOHN BISSETT, A. M. Rector of Srewsbury Parish, Kent county.

RICHA? D. B. CARMICHAEL. WILLIAM FRISBY.

VIRGINIA. ROBERT ANDREWS.

SOUTH-CAROLINA.
ROBERT SMITH, Rector of St. Philip's Church,
Charleston, and Principal of Charleston College.
WILLIAM BRISBANE.
W. W. BURROWS.

Proposals for an edition of the Holy Bible, by Mr. Isaac Collins, of Trenton, were laid before this Convention, and satisfactory

satisfactory information was given them, as to the proposer's abilities for the execution of the work.

Whereupon, Resolved, on motion of Mr. Jones,

That the members of this Convention will affift Mr. Col-

lins in the procuring of subscriptions.

The committee for preparing an address to the Most Rev. the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, reported an address, which was read and adopted.

Ordered, That it be engrossed, for signing, and that it be signed by the members of the Convention, as their address,

and by the President officially.

Ordered, That it be published in the journal of the adjourn-

ed meeting of this Convention.

On motion, Resolved, I hat the Right Rev. Dr. White, Rev. Dr. Smith, Rev Dr. Magaw, Hon. Mr. Hopkinson, Mr. T. Coxe and Mr. Burrows, be a committee to forward the above mentioned address; to prepare and forward the necessary an-Iwers to the Rev. Mr. Parker and the Clergy of Massachusetts and New-Hampshire, respecting their application for the consecration of the Rev Edward Bass, their Bishop elect; to an-Iwer, as far as may be necessary, the Right Rev. Dr. Seabury's letters; to forward the minutes and proceedings of this Convention to the English Archbishops and Bishops, and also to the Right Rev. Dr. Seabury, and to the eastern and other churches, not included in this union; to notify to them the time and place to which this Convention shall adjourn, and request their attendance at the same, for the good purposes of union and general government, and to call fuch special meetings of the Convention, as may be necessary.

Refolved, That this Convention adjourn, to meet at Philadelphia, on Tuesday, the 29th of September next, and that the Right Rev. Dr. Provoost be requested to open the Con-

vention with a fermon,

Signed, by Order of the Convention,

WILLIAM WHITE, Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and President of the Convention.

FRANCIS HOPKINSON, Secretary.

APPENDIX.

To all persons to whom these presents shall come, or whom the same shall or may in any wise or at any time concern, que, John, by divine providence, Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate of all England, and Metropolitan, send GREET-

WHEREAS, by an act of Parliamant passed at Westmin-ster, in the twenty-fixth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the third, King of Great-Bittain, France and Ireland, entituled "An Act to empower the Archbishop " of Canterbury, or the Archbishop of York, for the time " being, to confecrate, to the office of a Bishop, persons " being subjects or citizens of countries out of his Maje-" fty's dominions," it is enacted, that it shall and may be lawful to and for the Archbishop of Canterbury, or the Archchbishop of York, for the time being, together with fuch other Bishops as they shall call to their assistance, to confectate persons, being subjects or citizens of countries out of his Majesty's dominions, Bishops, for the purposes aforesaid, without the King's licence for their election, or the Royal Mandate under the great feal for their confirmation and confecration, and without requiring them to take the oaths of allegiance and supremacy, and the oath of due obedience to the Archbishop for the time being. Provided always, that no persons shall be consecrated Bishops in the manner herein provided, until the Archbishop of Canterbury, or the Archbishop of York, for the time being, shall have first applied for and obtained his Majesty's licence, by warrant under his Royal Signet and Sign Manual, authorifing and impowering him to perform such consecration, and expressing the name or names of the persons so to be consecrated, nor until the faid Archbishop has been fully ascertained of their sufficiency in good learning, of the foundness of their faith, and of the purity of their manners. Provided also, and be it hereby declared.

clared, that no person or persons consecrated to the office of Bishop in the manner aforesaid, nor any person or persons deriving their confecration from or under any Bishop so confecrated, nor any person or persons admitted to the order of Deacon or Priest by any Bishop or Bishops so consecrated, or by the successor or successors of any Bishop or Bishops so confecrated, shall be thereby enabled to exercise his or their respective office or offices within his Majesty's dominions. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That a certificate of fuch confecration shall be given under the hand and seal of the Archbishop who consecrates, containing the name of the perfon fo confecrated, with the addition, as well of the country whereof he is a subject or citizen, as of the church in which he is appointed Bishop, and the further description of his not having taken the faid oaths, being exempted from the obligation of so doing by virtue of this act -Now know all men by these presents, that we, the said John Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, having obtained his Majesty's licence, by warrant under his Royal Signet and Sign Manual, did, in pursuance of the faid act of Parliament, on Sunday, the fourth day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty feven, in the Chapel of our palace, at Lambeth, in the county of Surry, admit our beloved in Christ William White, Clerk, D. D. a subject or citizen of the state of Pennsylvania, in North-America, and Rector of Christ-Church and St. Peter's, in the city of Philadelphia, in the faid state, of whose sufficiency in good learning, soundness in the faith, and purity of manners, we were fully ascertained, into the office of a Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the state of Pennsylvania aforesaid, to which the faid William White hath been elected by the Convention for the faid state, as appears unto us by due testimony thereof by him produced, and him the faid William White did then and there rightly and canonically confecrate a Bishop, according to the manner and form preicribed and used by the church of England, his taking the oaths of allegiance, supremacy and canonical obedience only excepted, he being exempted from the obligation of taking the faid oaths by virtue of the above recited act. Provided, that neither he the said Bishop, nor any person or persons deriving their consecration from or under him, nor any person or persons admitted to the order of Deacon or Priest by him, or his successor or successors, shail be enabled to exercise his or their respective office or offices within within his Majesty's dominions.—In testimony whereof we have caused our Archi-episcopal seal to be assixed to these prefents—Given at Lambeth House, the day and year above written, and in the sourth year of our translation.

J. (L. S) CANTUAR.

We, William Lord Archbishop of York, Charles Lord Bishop of Bath and Wells, and John Lord Bishop of Peterbolough, were present and assisting at the consecration within mentioned.

W. EBOR,

C. BATH AND WELLS.
J. PETERBOROUGH.

The fignatures of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, and of the Bishops of Bath and Wells, and Peterborough, were made in my presence, February 4th, 1787.

WM. DICKE, Secretary to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

(Cipy)

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N Sunday, the fourth day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-seven, and in the fourth year of the translation of the Mott Reverend Father in God, John, by Divine Providence, Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate of all England, and Metropolitan, in the Chapel at the Palace at Lambeth, in the county of Surry, the faid Most Reverend Father in God, by virtue and authority of a certain licence or wairant from his Most Gracious Majesty, and our Sovereign Lord George the Third, by the grace of God, of Great-Britain, France and Ireland, King, defender of the faith, and so forth, to him, in this behalf, duected, the Most Reverend Father in God, William, by the same Providence, Lord Archbishop of York, Primate of England, and Metropolitan, and the Right Reverend Fathers in God, Charles, by Divine Permission, Lord Bishop of Bath and Wells, and John, by Divine Permission, Lord Bishop of Peterborough, assisting him, consecrated the Reverend William White, Doctor in Divinity, Rector of Christ-Church and Saint Peter's, in the city of Philadelphia, a subject or citizen of the United States of North-America, and the Reverend Samuel Provoost, Doctor in Divinity, Rector of Trinity Church, in the city of New-York, a subject or citizen also of the United States of North-America, to the office of a Bishop, respectively, the rites, circumstances and ceremonies

monies anciently used in the Church of England being observed and applied, according to the tenor of an act passed in the twenty-fixth year of the Reign of his said Majesty, entituled " An Act to empower the Archbishpp of Canterbury, or the Archbishop of York, for the time being, to consecrate to the office of a Bishop, persons being subjects or citizens of countries out of his Majetty's dominions," in the presence of me, Robert Jenner, Notary-Public, one of the Deputy Registers of the province of Canterbury, being then and there present the Reverend and Worshipful William Backhouse, Doctor in Divinity, Archdeacon of Canterbury, the Reverend ____ Lort, Doctor in Divinity, the Reverend - Drake, Doctor in Divinity, William Dickes, Eig: Notary-Public, Secretary to his Grace the faid Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, with many others in great numbers then and there affembled. Which I attest.

R1. JENNER, Notary-Public, Actuary assumed.

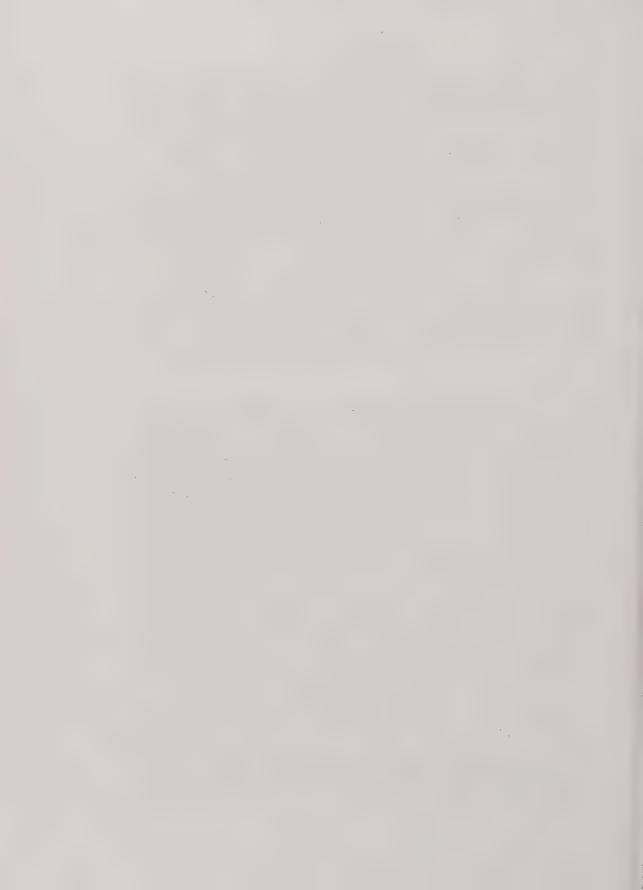
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AND we, the underwritten Notaries Public, by Royal Authority duly admitted and fworn, refiding in Doctor's Commons, London, do hereby certify and attest, to all whom it may concern, that Robert Jenner, whose name is subscribed to the aforegoing act, was and is a Notary-Public, and one of the Deputy Registers of the province of Canterbury, and that the letters, name and words "Rt. Jenner, Notary-"Public," thereto subscribed, were and are of the proper hand writing and subscription of the said Robert Jenner, and that we faw him fign the same, and that full faith and entire credit is and ought to be given to all the acts, subscriptions and attestations of the faid Robert Jenner, as well in judgment as out. In testimony whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names, to serve and avail as occasion may require, at Doctor's Commons, London, this fifth day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-seven. Which we attest.

EDWARD COOPER, Notary-Public. WILLIAM ABBOT, Notary-Public.

Note. The letter of consecration of the Right Rev. Dr. Prowoost will be annexed to the next journal of the General Convention.







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Religion and Philosophy

The Age of Enlightenment profoundly enriched religious and philosophical understanding and continues to influence present-day thinking. Works collected here include masterpieces by David Hume, Immanuel Kant, and Jean-Jacques Rousseau, as well as religious sermons and moral debates on the issues of the day, such as the slave trade. The Age of Reason saw conflict between Protestantism and Catholicism transformed into one between faith and logic -- a debate that continues in the twenty-first century.

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